

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 14, 16-21 allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art teaches adjusting the exposure for the next capture with respect to which type of metering was used to capture the image. For example the prior art will use the metering mode from the last capture to calculate a new exposure for the next capture such as US 20020041334 to Okawara. Also, the prior art (such as 2002/0008771 to Uchino et al.) teaches determining which type of metering was used, but if partial area metering such as spot metering is used, it only adjusts the brightness to that area of the image that was metered, not the entire image as the instant application claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Peter Martine on 7/23/09.

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The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 19 (currently amended): An image output method of outputting an image using image data from an image output apparatus, the image data being associated with light metering mode information, the light metering mode information showing a light metering mode used for photographing of the image, the image output method comprising:

adjusting lightness of the whole image to a degree with a picture quality adjusting unit;

outputting the image that has been adjusted by the lightness adjustment with an outputting unit; and

making the degree less when the light metering mode information shows a light metering mode measuring a part of the image than when the light metering mode information shows other than the light metering mode measuring a part of the image.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AMY HSU whose telephone number is (571)270-3012. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lin Ye can be reached on 571-272-7372. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Lin Ye/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2622

/Amy Hsu/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2622  
7/23/09